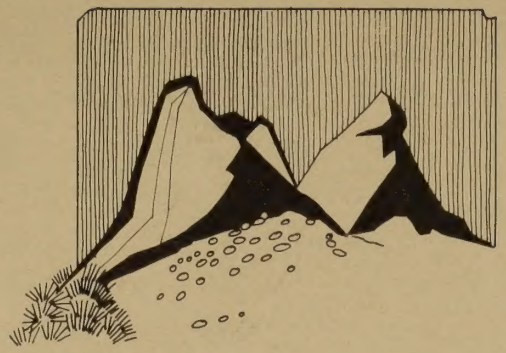
planning workbook
comprehensive management plan

august 1991



CITY OF ROCKS NATIONAL RESERVE • IDAHO

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR / NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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THE PLANNING PROCESS FOR CITY OF ROCKS NATIONAL RESERVE

When Congress established the reserve in 1988, it directed that the National Park Service, in cooperation with appropriate state and federal agencies, local units of government, and local residents, formulate a comprehensive plan for the protection, preservation, and interpretation of the reserve. To carry out this direction from Congress, a planning team has been formed with eight members from the National Park Service, two from the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, and four residents of Cassia County, Idaho.

The formulation of a comprehensive plan for City of Rocks is being accomplished in three basic steps, and we are now entering step two. Each step is described briefly below:

Step One – Gather Information: Considerable information has been gathered over the past year. Historians, natural scientists, and landscape architects have extensively surveyed the cultural, natural, and scenic resources of the reserve. Public ideas and concerns about how the reserve should be managed have been gathered at nine public meetings in eight different communities in southern Idaho and northern Utah.

Step Two – Consider the Possibilities: The planning team is now considering all the possibilities for management and use of the reserve and developing alternative plans representing the different possibilities. The draft alternatives are being presented for public review and comment in this workbook. The alternatives may be revised as planning progresses.

Step Three – Select and Refine a Proposal: Following the public review of the alternatives, a draft comprehensive management plan/environmental impact statement will be prepared. The environmental impact statement will analyze the impacts of the draft plan and compare them to the impacts of the other feasible alternatives. The public will have an opportunity to review and comment on both the draft plan and the analysis. Following that review a final plan and final environmental impact statement will be prepared.

This somewhat lengthy planning process gives you the opportunity to express your concerns before decisions are made and a chance to review and comment on each step as the plan is developed. All ideas and concerns will be considered.

Where We Are Now

As stated above, this workbook represents the beginning of the second step of the planning for City of Rocks National Reserve: the step of considering the possibilities for management. Four preliminary management alternatives are described here for your review. The purpose of this workbook is to find out from you and other members of the public

- how you think City of Rocks should be managed
- what you consider to be the major advantages and disadvantages of the actions being considered
- whether, in your opinion, all of the possible and desirable management actions are included somewhere in one or more of the alternatives
- what topics need to be addressed in analyzing the environmental impacts of these alternatives

A preaddressed, postage-paid response sheet is included at the back of this workbook for your comments. Fill in both pages, then fold them together with the address on the outside and tape shut. Please mail your comments to us so that we receive them by October 1, 1991. The information you provide will help the planning team develop and analyze an appropriate range of management alternatives for City of Rocks.

MAJOR PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

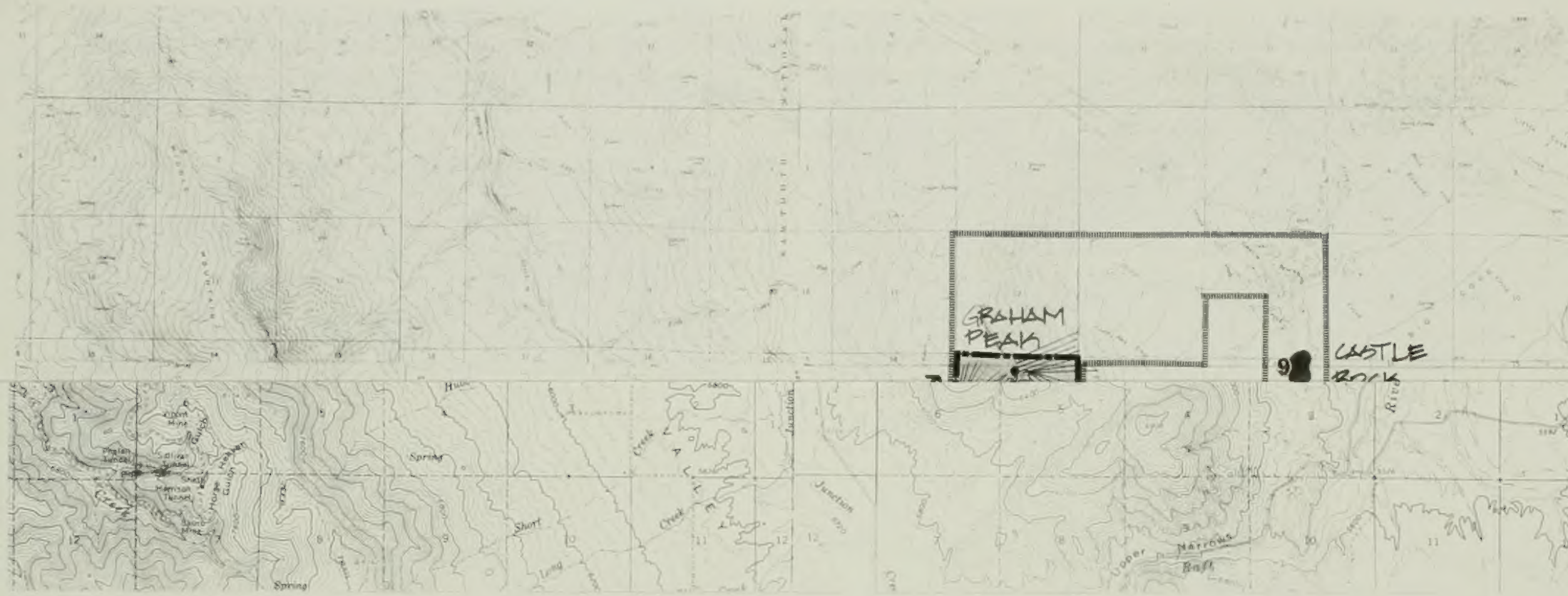
City of Rocks is a unit of the national park system. The legislation that created City of Rocks National Reserve specifies that the area is to be administered subject to the provisions of the organic act for the National Park Service. The organic act specifies that units of the national park system are "to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects therein" and "to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such a manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." This means that conservation of resources is of primary importance and that visitor use, although also important, must not degrade the scenic, historic, and natural values of the area.

City of Rocks is a national reserve. City of Rocks is one of four national reserves in the national park system. A reserve is an area that is managed cooperatively by the federal government through the National Park Service and one or more nonfederal entities. Each reserve is inherently different and each law designating a reserve reflects its individual values and purposes. How this reserve will be cooperatively managed will be further defined by this comprehensive management planning process.

City of Rocks National Reserve has several potentially competing purposes based on its great variety of important resource values. As indicated by Congress and further defined by the planning team, the purposes of City of Rocks are to

- preserve, protect, and interpret
  - the City of Rocks, a major landmark and principal stopping place along the California Trail
  - the trail segments and rock inscriptions associated with the California Trail
  - the scenery, mystery, and silence of the landscape
  - the historic sites and current ranching activities that contribute to a historic western rural setting
- manage recreation to ensure preservation and protection of resource values

City of Rocks is a national historic landmark. In 1964 City of Rocks was designated a national historic landmark – one of our country's most significant cultural resources. It received this designation because of its relationship to the California Trail and the history of American westward migration during the mid 1800s. Situated on the approach to the best mountain pass between Fort Hall and the Humboldt River basin, this area of grass-covered valleys ringed by spectacular granite monoliths became a major landmark and principal stopping place along the California Trail and the Salt Lake Alternate. Many of the emigrants traveling through the area recorded their impressions



KEY FEATURES

IMPORTANT FEATURES

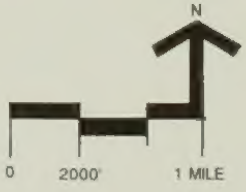
- SILENT CITY OF ROCKS
- CALIFORNIA TRAIL
- SALT LAKE ALT. TRAIL
- GRADED DIRT ROAD
- STEEP SLOPE
- RESERVE BOUNDARY
- NATURAL LANDMARK BOUNDARY
- HISTORIC LANDMARK BOUNDARY

KEY ROCKS

1. BREADLOAVES
2. BATH
3. TURTLE
4. REGISTER
5. TREASURE
6. CAMP
7. ELEPHANT
8. TWIN SISTERS
9. CASTLE
10. CITY LIMITS
11. PARKING LOT

KEY AREAS

- **A** INSCRIPTION ROCKS CULTURAL AREA
- **B** NICHOLSON RANCH HOUSE
- **C** CIRCLE CREEK BASIN/TRAIL ENCAMPMENT AREA
- **D** TWIN SISTERS RIDGE
- **E** PINNACLE PASS
- **F** STAGE STOP CULTURAL AREA
- **G** GRANITE PASS
- **H** INDIAN GROVE
- **I** GRAHAM CREEK DRAINAGE
- **J** TWIN SISTERS BASIN



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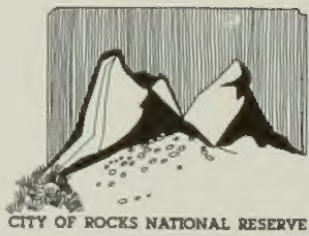
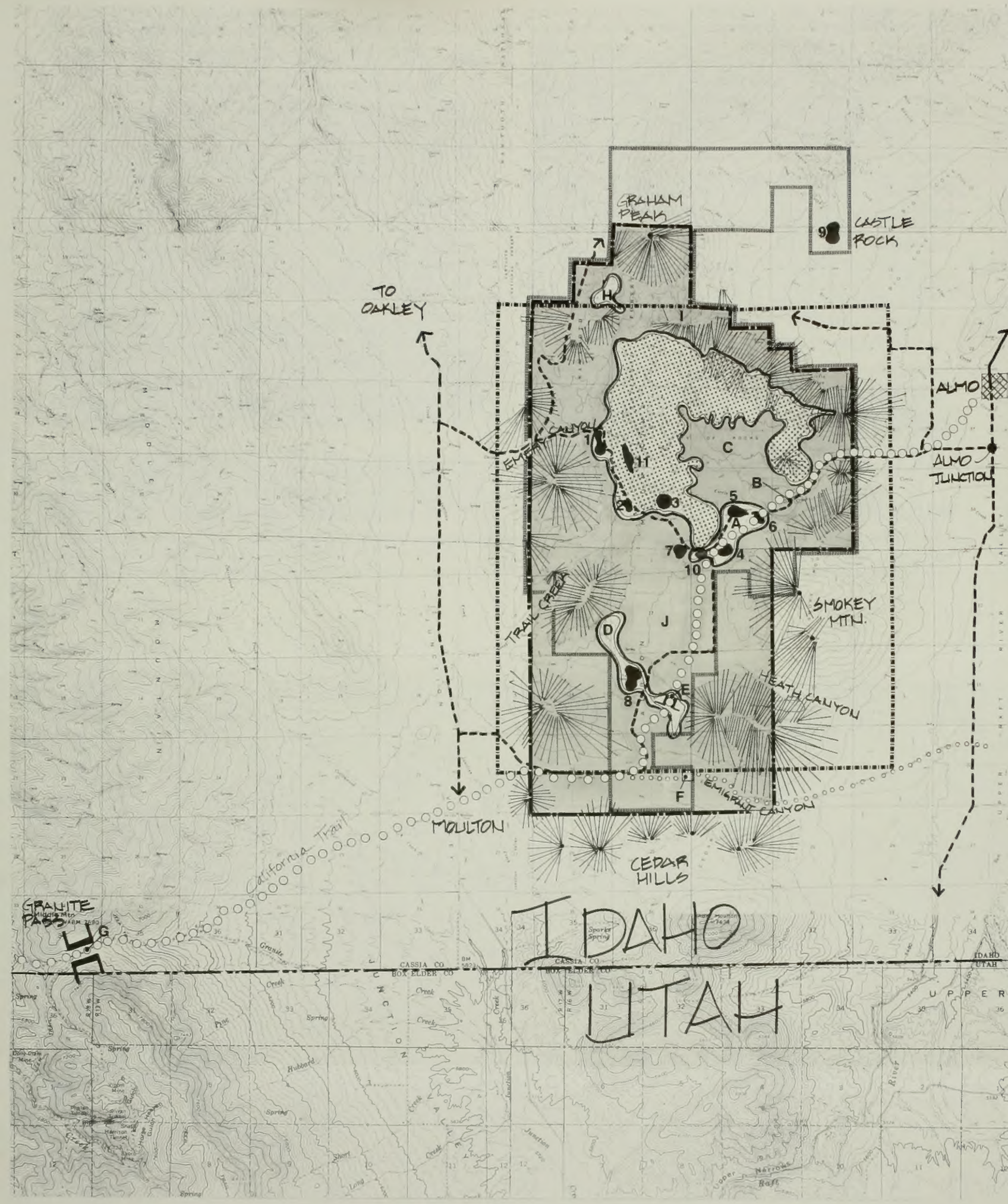


CITY OF ROCKS NATIONAL RESERVE



IMPORTANT FEATURES

- SILENT CITY OF ROCKS
- CALIFORNIA TRAIL
- SALT LAKE ALT. TRAIL
- GRADED DIRT ROAD
- STEEP SLOPE
- RESERVE BOUNDARY
- NATURAL LANDMARK BOUNDARY
- HISTORIC LANDMARK BOUNDARY

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- G GRANITE PASS
- H INDIAN GROVE
- I GRAHAM CREEK DRAINAGE
- J TWIN SISTERS BASIN

KEY FEATURES

N

0 2000' 1 MILE

CITY OF ROCKS NATIONAL RESERVE

important and increasingly rare remnant of the American Old West.

The unique landscape at City of Rocks is an important part of the historic scene and has outstanding scenic quality. To modern-day visitors traveling along the California Trail through City of Rocks the landscape still looks and feels much the same as it did to the emigrants. The first major impression is one of enclosure. The vistas here are different from the vistas on the surrounding plains – they are defined by the encircling rocks that alternately close in and open up, adding great variety to the scenery. The Circle Creek basin, where many of the emigrants camped, is still an open, expansive valley with a flowing creek, ringed by towering rock formations offering a sense of security and comfort to plains-weary travelers. The Silent City of Rocks, the crescent shaped canyon at the heart of the outcrop, still retains a quality of mystery and an impressive silence that has awed people for centuries. The Twin Sisters, which have been known by various names, still appear on the horizon at a point just past the inscription rocks, guiding anyone who will follow them across the next open valley to Pinnacle Pass.

Although the physical landscape remains much the same as it was historically, the present plant and animal communities are considerably different from those seen by the first emigrants: A combination of historic and modern uses has resulted in successional shifts toward a dominance of sagebrush, pinyon pine, juniper, and nonnative plants; riparian communities are no longer as prevalent near streams and springs; and a number of wildlife species, including bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope, gray wolf, and beaver have disappeared from the scene. Management to preserve natural processes and to restore more natural conditions to sites that have been disturbed by man's use would also enhance the historic scene important to the story of the California Trail.

The same characteristics of the landscape that make it valuable from a historical point of view also give it outstanding scenic quality. The variety of enclosed and expansive spaces, the rich mixture of colors and textures created by rocks and vegetation, the focal points and sense of direction provided by such distinctive landmarks as Twin Sisters, and the mystical qualities of this unusual place all contribute to a vividness that makes the City of Rocks a memorable scenic landscape.

City of Rocks is a national natural landmark. The geology of City of Rocks includes some of the oldest rocks in North America juxtaposed with others that are more recent. The Twin Sisters are actually billions of years apart in age. In 1976 much of the reserve was designated a national natural landmark in recognition of the geologic significance of its eroded granite domes and sculptured landscape.

The ecosystems associated with the granite outcrop include an uncommon diversity of vegetation and wildlife, including peregrine falcons, which are federally listed as endangered, and ferruginous hawks and Townsend's big-eared bats, both of which

are candidate species for listing as threatened or endangered. Cliff chipmunks and Simpson's hedgehog cactus, both considered rare in the state of Idaho, are known residents, and the pinyon-juniper forest type is at the northern edge of its range here. The reserve also provides essential habitat for mountain lions and for golden eagles, prairie falcons, and other birds of prey. All these species and their denning, roosting, or nesting habitats are very sensitive to human activities. The potential habitat for threatened or endangered species must be surveyed annually, and if any individuals are present, use must be managed to support the conservation of these species.

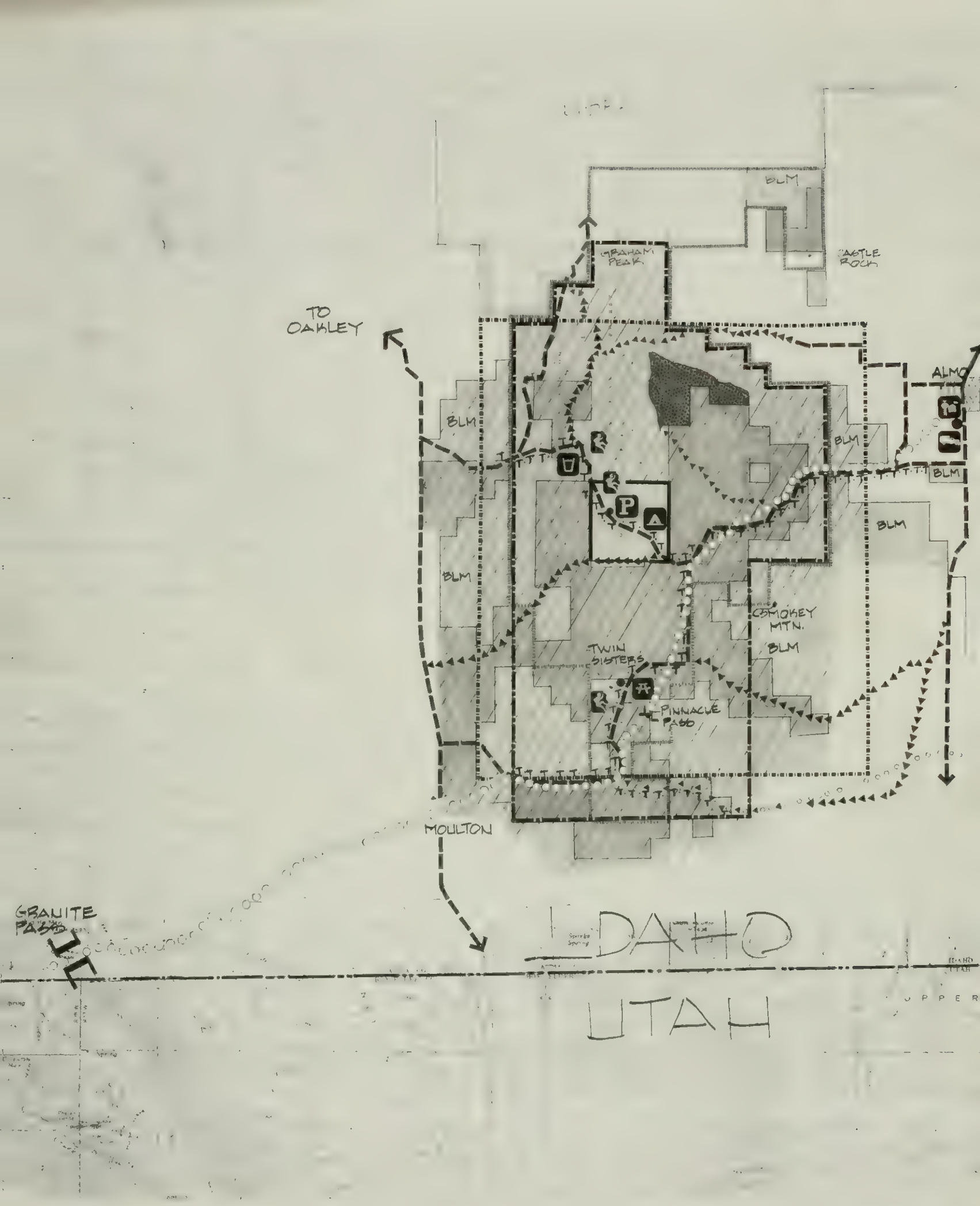
A portion of the reserve that has remained relatively undisturbed by man's activities was designated a research natural area by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management prior to the establishment of the national reserve.

City of Rocks has a long tradition of recreational use by local residents and is now receiving attention as an outstanding rock climbing area. City of Rocks has been a popular destination for sightseeing, picnicking, and rock scrambling for generations of local residents. More recently, it has become a technical rock climbing mecca. Recognizing the recreational value of the area, Idaho State Parks and Recreation purchased a section of land in the heart of the City of Rocks in 1973. Tourists have been coming to the area in increasing numbers ever since. The most popular recreational activities in the reserve are sightseeing, picnicking, rock climbing, camping, hiking, mountain biking, photography, and nature study. An amendment to the legislation establishing the reserve allows for hunting to continue in locations and under conditions determined cooperatively by the secretary of the interior and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

Approximately half of the lands in the national reserve are in private ownership. In 1988, the year the national reserve was established, approximately 6,380 acres inside the boundary designated by Congress were in private ownership and used primarily for cattle grazing. Congress indicated that the plan for City of Rocks should identify which zones could most appropriately be devoted to "private use subject to appropriate local ordinances designed to protect the historic rural setting" existing at the time the reserve was established.

Congress authorized the secretary of the interior to acquire on an opportunity basis any lands or interests in lands considered necessary for the operation of the reserve.

In addition to private lands, private grazing allotments are currently in effect on most of the public lands in the reserve except the research natural area and the section owned by the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation. These allotments are currently renewed on an annual basis.



ACTIVITIES/FEATURES

- PARKING AREA
- CAMPING AREA
- PICNIC AREA
- CLIMBING AREA
- POTABLE WATER/WELL
- ADMIN/MAINTENANCE
- CALIFORNIA TRAIL
- SALT LAKE ALT. TRAIL
- GRAZING
- LIVESTOCK TRAILING CORRIDOR

ZONES

- PRESERVATION/EDUCATION
- RESEARCH NATURAL AREA
- PRIVATE USES
- NATURAL RESOURCE/RECREATION
- DEVELOPMENT
- GRADED DIRT ROADS
- 4WD ROADS & TRAILS
- RESERVE BOUNDARY
- NATURAL LANDMARK BOUNDARY
- HISTORIC LANDMARK BOUNDARY
- STATE OWNED SECTION 36

EXISTING CONDITIONS

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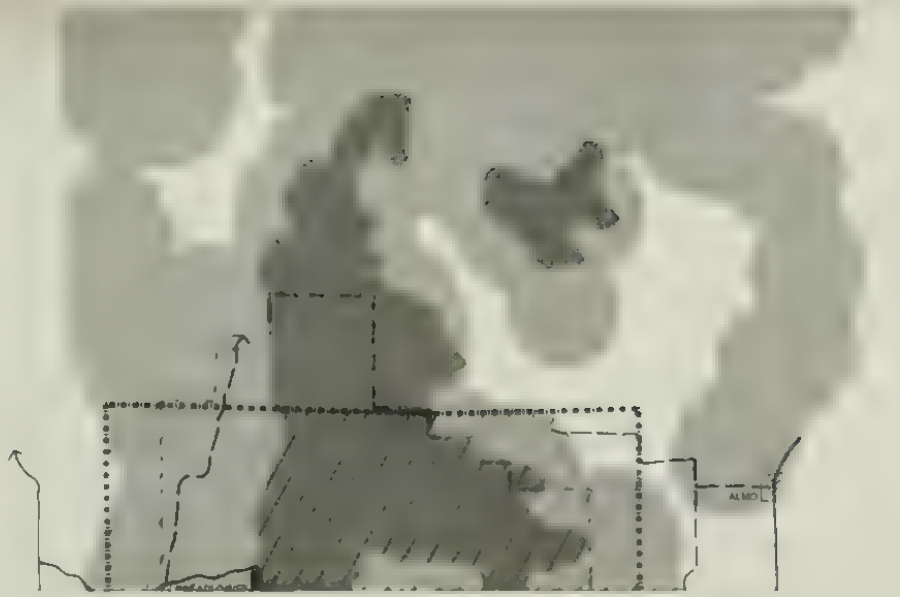
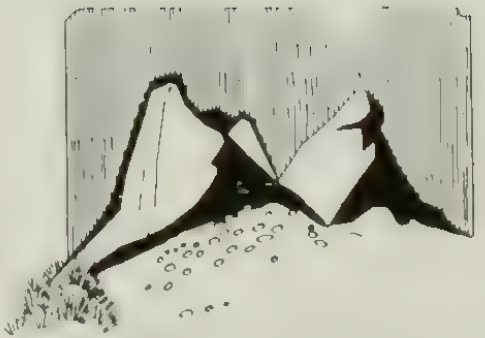


RESOURCE VALUES

- NATURAL/VISUAL
- CULTURAL/VISUAL



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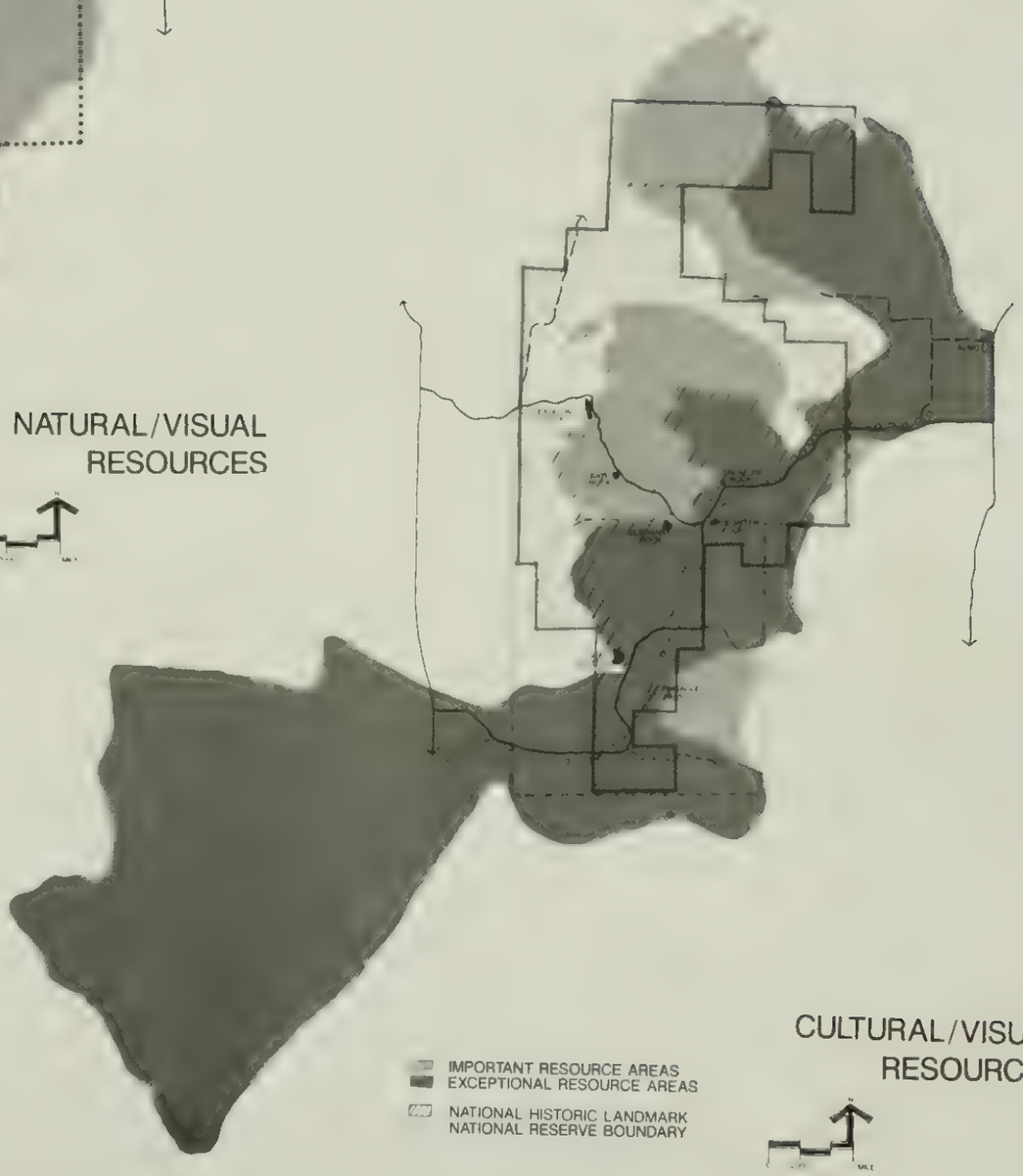
CITY OF ROCKS NATIONAL RESERVE

IMPORTANT RESOURCE AREAS
EXCEPTIONAL RESOURCE AREAS
NATIONAL NATURAL LANDMARK
NATIONAL RESERVE BOUNDARY

NATURAL/VISUAL
RESOURCES

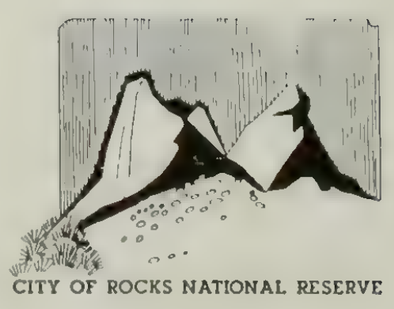


IMPORTANT RESOURCE AREAS
EXCEPTIONAL RESOURCE AREAS
NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK
NATIONAL RESERVE BOUNDARY

CULTURAL/VISUAL
RESOURCES

RESOURCE VALUES

- NATURAL/VISUAL
- CULTURAL/VISUAL



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CITY OF ROCKS NATIONAL RESERVE

MANAGEMENT ZONES

Congress directed that the comprehensive management plan for City of Rocks National Reserve should identify those areas or zones that would most appropriately be devoted to

historic and natural preservation

public use and development

private use subject to appropriate local ordinances designed to protect the historic rural setting

This workbook describes four preliminary alternatives for how this zoning might be accomplished. The public and private use zones included in the alternatives have been modified slightly from those listed by Congress to reflect that public educational use is an important part of the preservation zone and that protection of natural resource values is an important consideration in the public recreational use zone. The four zones included in the alternatives are defined below.

Preservation and Public Education Zone

This zone would contain lands where the preservation and public appreciation of cultural and natural resource values would be the predominant concern. The historic California Trail corridor, the inscription rocks, the research natural area, and possibly other significant cultural and natural resources would be included in this zone.

The public would be helped to see and learn about these resources to the extent possible without causing resource damage. Development in this zone would be limited to minor facilities to aid storytelling, such as marked trails and wayside exhibits.

The resources in this zone would be preserved, or perhaps enhanced if they had previously been degraded. The treatment of historic resources would include stabilization to prevent wind or water damage. The surrounding landscape would be restored to a more natural, and therefore more historic, appearance by controlling erosion, restoring riparian areas, and encouraging native plant and animal species.

Natural Resource Management and Public Recreational Use Zone

This zone would contain lands managed primarily to allow for environmentally compatible recreational activities. Managers would encourage recreational activities that promoted visitor enjoyment of park resources without unacceptably damaging them. These might include, with appropriate management, sightseeing, photography, picnicking, hiking, camping, rock climbing, mountain biking, horseback riding, pinyon nut gathering, hunting, nature study, hang gliding, and in winter

cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Trails and other minor structures would be provided where necessary to support the desired visitor experience and to minimize impacts on the natural environment. Undeveloped areas would be managed to perpetuate natural processes and to avoid unacceptable adverse effects on natural resources. Management actions to protect the natural environment would include the following:

Some areas might be closed to recreational use during certain times to avoid adverse effects on sensitive resources, such as nesting peregrines.

Wetlands would be protected from vegetation trampling, soil compaction and erosion, and pollution.

The use of recreational vehicles, including nonmotorized trail bikes and snowmachines, would be confined to roads and trails specifically designated for those uses.

Unauthorized roads and trails would be closed and allowed to revegetate.

Camping would be managed under a permit system and would be allowed only in designated campsites.

Heavily disturbed areas would be revegetated.

To help preserve the sense of quiet and awe that is a significant value associated with the City of Rocks, no noise-generating equipment, including generators, radios, or power tools, would be allowed away from the road corridors.

The management of climbing at City of Rocks is a topic of considerable interest to climbers and reserve managers. There is divergence of opinion within the climbing community regarding the use of climbing equipment, such as bolts, power drills, and chalk. The controls on noise-generating equipment would affect climbers by making it impossible for them to use power drills in the reserve in the future. Other management of climbing activities within this zone, such as the designation of access points, the establishment or closure of routes, the management of use of nonmotorized equipment, and other actions designed to mitigate impacts on resources and other visitors, would be determined by reserve managers after considering input from representatives of the climbing community.

Reserve managers would cooperate with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to minimize the potential conflicts between hunting and other uses of the public lands.

Development Zone

This zone would contain such developments as buildings, roads, parking areas, and major interpretive trails required to support visitor use.

Private Use Zone

This zone would contain private grazing lands subject to local ordinances designed to protect the historic rural setting. The historic and scenic values of the open rangelands could be preserved through local zoning for domestic livestock grazing use and the acquisition of scenic easements by the National Park Service. Private use could continue under a scenic easement, and minimal facilities to support livestock grazing, such as fences and stock tanks, could be allowable development. No other commercial or residential development would be allowed, since it would destroy the open rangeland character that Congress intended to preserve for present and future generations.

In the following alternatives, certain private lands may be shown as included in a public use zone because they were considered by the planning team to be most suited for that use. In actuality, no private lands will be included in a public use zone without the acquisition, on an opportunity basis, of a sufficient public interest (such as an access easement, a preservation easement, or fee title) to allow for the proposed new use. The details of the following alternatives are considered possibilities to be pursued with the existing landowners if the overall concept for resource preservation and visitor use is determined to be desirable.

Areas of Special Concern

Areas outside the boundary that have values important to the reserve are included in this category. The National Park Service would offer its assistance to federal, state, county, and private landowners to encourage the kind of management that would preserve the important values.

ALTERNATIVE 1: HISTORIC CONTINUUM WITH INCREASED RECREATION

Alternative 1 would place equal emphasis on all aspects of the reserve's cultural and natural history, and expand recreational opportunities.

In addition to stories of emigrants traveling cross-country on the California Trail, stories would also be told of the people who settled here, beginning with the prehistoric Indians and continuing through the Shoshones, the early cattlemen, the homesteaders, and the ranchers who run cattle in the reserve today. This alternative would also highlight the reserve's natural history. Exceptional natural resource areas would receive special management attention, and habitats would be interpreted to show how changes in vegetation and wildlife have resulted from climatic influences and human manipulation. Opportunities for recreational use would be continued or enhanced wherever possible without interfering with these interpretive stories.

In seeking to balance all the reserve's cultural, natural, scenic, and recreational values, this alternative would produce the greatest variety of management and use, including a tightly drawn cultural preservation zone around the California Trail and other key historic features, an enlarged research natural area, the largest area managed for rock climbing, the most educational and recreational development, and the most private use. Livestock grazing and trailing would be a necessary part of the historic scene to be interpreted to visitors and would be encouraged to continue, with appropriate management to protect cultural, natural, and scenic resource values, on lands inside the reserve. (See the Alternative 1 map.)

The route of the California Trail would be protected, marked, and made accessible so that people could walk along it. A fenced ½-mile-wide preservation and public education corridor would be designated to give visitors the desired experience of the historic trail without any development or incompatible uses in the immediate foreground of their views. The north-south road through the reserve would be realigned to remove it from the foreground of the views from the trail. All new fences would have a historic rural character. Visitor use would be controlled to minimize trespass on private lands outside this preservation and public education zone.

Possible treatments to preserve the trail would include ground stabilization to prevent erosion, and cutting of vegetation to maintain a visible swath through the corridor. The best-preserved trail remnants and rock inscriptions would be pointed out to visitors, along with the major trail landmarks. The trail remnants would receive special management attention to protect them from damage. The rock inscriptions would be stabilized using the best available techniques, and appropriate steps would be taken to keep visitors from touching them. The inscriptions would not be enhanced, but a wayside exhibit would show what the inscriptions looked like in earlier times.

In addition, the best representations of earlier and later periods of history would also be preserved or stabilized, and they would be used to help tell the entire story of the City of Rocks area. Roadside or trailside exhibits would be installed at the stage station site and the Nicholson ranch house to interpret regional freighting and stagecoach traffic and 20th century dryland farming. A corral site where ranching activities still occur would be open to the public for interpretation of post-1920s ranching operations.

Because of the importance of landmarks and vistas to visitors' understanding and appreciation of the California Trail, the protection of historic views extending beyond the reserve boundary would be a priority. Areas of special concern for their historic landscape values would include

the foreground of the views along the entrance road from Almo, which is also the route of the historic trail and from which the rock outcrops are first sighted

the view from the trail looking east toward Smokey Mountain

the views to the south and east from Pinnacle Pass

the foreground of the views from the segment of the trail west of the reserve boundary leading to Granite Pass, which was the next guiding landmark beyond Pinnacle Pass and a major milestone on the journey to California

Other areas would be of special concern because of their importance to visitors' first impressions of the reserve. They would include

- the foregrounds of the views along the Oakley and Moulton entrance roads

The National Park Service would provide technical assistance to the owners of areas of special concern to encourage the protection of their scenic values.

Equal attention would be given to the reserve's significant natural resources. The research natural area would be expanded to include more of the rock crescent that provides potential habitat for threatened and endangered species and other species of special concern. This addition was part of the original proposal for the research natural area but was not subsequently included in the designated area. The entire rock crescent has now been identified as an exceptional natural and scenic resource area; however, most of the west side of the crescent, where the great majority of climbing activity occurs, would still be excluded from the research natural area to allow rock climbing to continue (see below). The research natural area would be open on a restricted basis to people interested in learning about the ecological values of the reserve.

Reserve managers and willing private landowners would work cooperatively to develop and demonstrate ecologically sound, sustained-yield methods for managing rangelands. A grazing management plan would be developed in accordance with standards and procedures designed to ensure that livestock grazing on public lands did not result in significant resource damage. These standards would be achieved through the use of the best grazing management practices possible. Livestock would be kept within the carrying capacity of the area to be grazed so that the composition, condition, and distribution of native plant and animal communities and ecosystem dynamics would not be significantly altered. Livestock grazing would be excluded from the preservation/education zone and from fragile areas, such as wetlands, in the natural resource/recreation zone. Damaged riparian areas would be restored.

Vegetation and soils would also be intensively managed to control and repair damage caused by additional recreational use. For example, heavily used areas might be rested and revegetated, and runoff would be controlled to reduce erosion. Vegetation might be managed to enhance views from scenic overlooks. Any changes in vegetation and wildlife associated with climatic influences or human manipulation, including use for livestock grazing, would be pointed out to visitors as part of the natural history of the area.

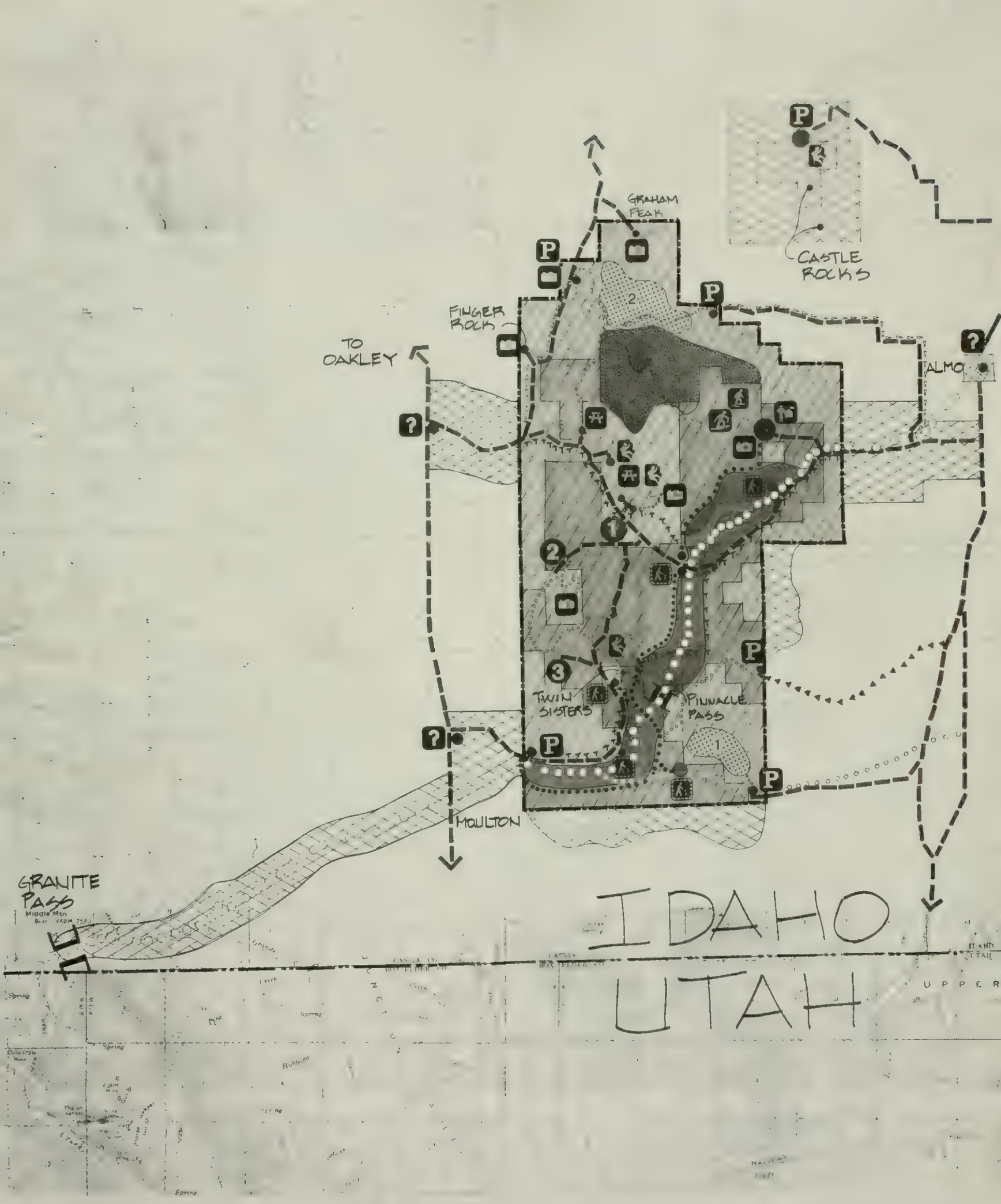
Most rock climbing areas would remain open to that activity. The notable exceptions would be (1) the inscription rocks (Treasure, Camp, Register, Monkey Face, Crystal, Stewart, Elephant's Head, Pagoda/Skeleton, Carson, City Limits, Giant Toadstool, Kaiser's Helmet, and Devils Bedstead/Saddle, all of which are included in area A on the Key Features map); (2) the research natural area; and (3) the faces of Twin Sisters visible from the trail, to allow visitors to experience this historic trail landmark without being

distracted by nonhistoric activities. Temporary closures of some additional areas might be necessary to protect important habitat such as peregrine nesting sites. Reserve managers would seek cooperative agreements with private landowners to allow recreationists displaced by seasonal closures of protected species habitat to relocate their activities to similar kinds of resource areas where nesting was not occurring on private lands inside the reserve boundary (such as the ridge extending north and west from Twin Sisters) or outside the boundary in the Castle Rocks area. Acquiring interests in these lands would increase managers' flexibility to direct use away from important nesting habitat while still supporting a variety of climbing experiences at City of Rocks.

Additional recreational use would be supported with scenic viewpoints, picnic areas, and a variety of trails. *Hardened* (paved or otherwise treated to withstand heavy use) scenic viewpoints would be developed at Graham Peak, Indian Grove, Finger Rock, and a proposed new visitor center (see below). A walk-in, handicap-accessible viewpoint would be provided at Turtle or Bath rock. A hardened interpretive trail for pedestrians only would parallel the California Trail outside the preservation zone and be linked to parking areas at the proposed visitor center, near City Limits Rock, and at the Moulton entrance. Parking for other trailheads would be located at Graham Creek, Heath Canyon, and Emigrant Canyon. Trails for hiking, horseback riding, and bicycling would be separated as much as possible, overlapping only in the Graham Creek drainage. Picnic areas would be located at Bread Loaves Rock and Bath Rock.

A total of about 35 campsites (about half as many as are used now) would be provided in the reserve: 15-20 sites in a small developed campground and the remainder as primitive campsites. Several possible locations for the campground and the primitive campsites are shown on the Alternative 1 map. Which area or areas would actually prove most suitable would depend on a field reconnaissance and the availability of the land for public use. No campsites would be established on the rim of the Silent City. It would be reserved for day use to allow as many people as possible to experience this outstanding natural area. Reserve managers would work with private landowners outside the reserve boundary and with other public agencies to find ways of meeting the demand for camping expected to result under this alternative.

A visitor center would be established inside the east boundary of the reserve on a ridge overlooking the Circle Creek basin. It would provide visitor information and an overview of the entire cultural and natural history of City of Rocks, from early geologic time to the present. Special environmental education programs would be developed to serve a variety of interest groups, including local school children, university classes, historical societies, and environmental groups. Information kiosks (small-scale partially enclosed structures with exhibit panels) would be provided near the Oakley and Moulton entrances to help orient visitors entering the reserve from those directions.



ACTIVITIES/FEATURES

- PARKING AREA
- PICNIC AREA
- CLIMBING AREA
- VISITOR CENTER
- INFORMATION
- INTERPRETIVE DISPLAY
- VIEWPOINT
- SKI/SNOWSHOE TRAIL
- HIKING TRAIL
- MTN. BIKE TRAIL
- LIVESTOCK TRAILING CORRIDOR
- CALIFORNIA TRAIL
- SALT LAKE ALT. TRAIL

ZONES

- PRESERVATION/EDUCATION RESEARCH NATURAL AREA
- PRIVATE USES
- NATURAL RESOURCE/RECREATION
- PRIMITIVE CAMPING AREA
- DEVELOPMENT
- GRADED DIRT ROADS
- 4WD ROADS
- ALTERNATIVE CAMPGROUND LOCATIONS (ONLY 1 TO BE SELECTED)
- INTERPRETIVE TRAIL
- AREA OF SPECIAL CONCERN
- GRAZING

ALTERNATIVE 1

HISTORIC CONTINUUM WITH INCREASED RECREATION

0 2000' 1 MILE

CITY OF ROCKS NATIONAL RESERVE

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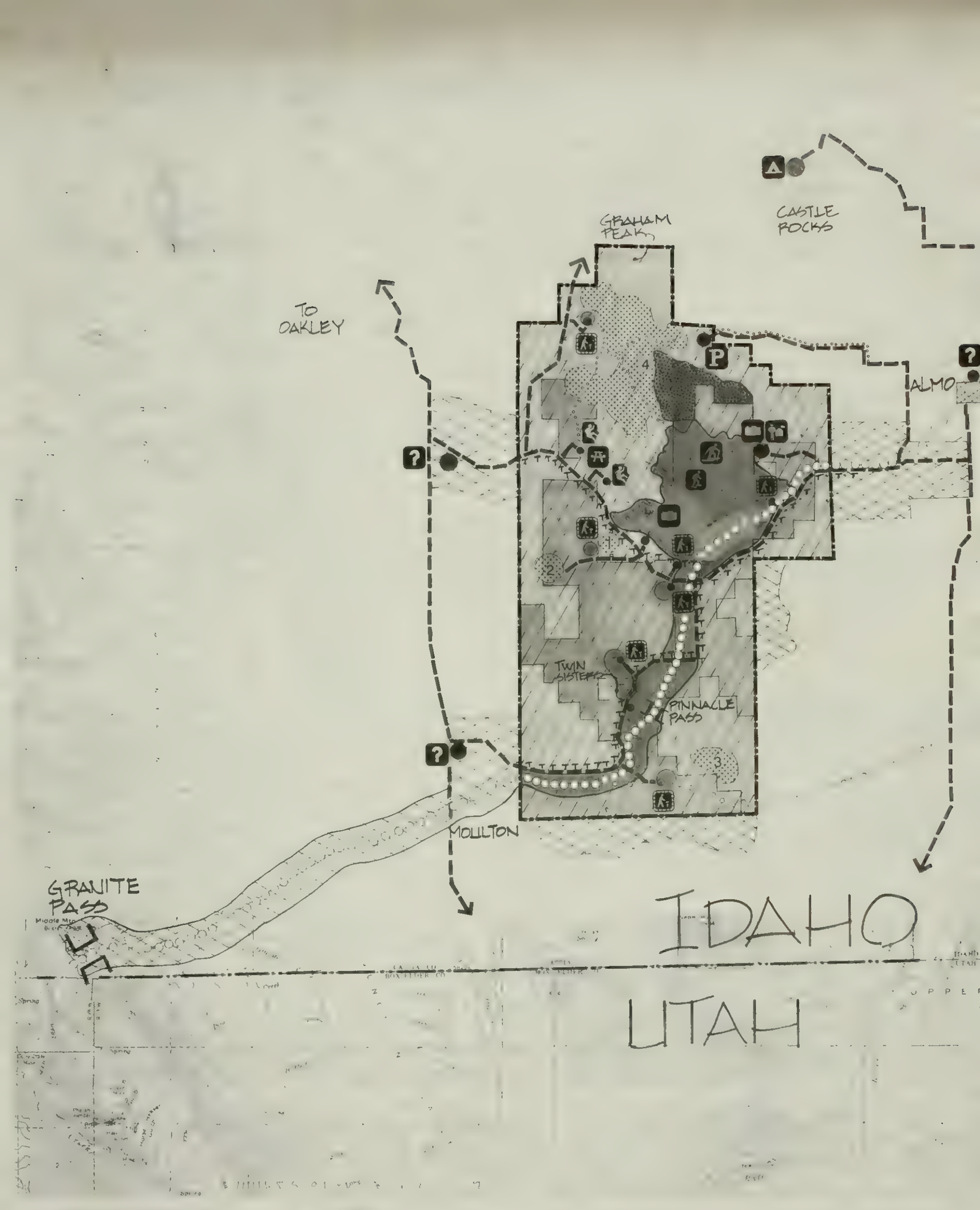
ALTERNATIVE 2: HISTORIC CONTINUUM

Alternative 2 would focus on the cultural history of the City of Rocks area. Like alternative 1, it would explore all aspects of the area's history, from prehistoric settlement to present-day ranching, but in greater depth. Less emphasis would be placed on natural resources or recreation than in alternative 1; however, representative examples of exceptional natural resources would be preserved, and most of the public lands would remain open to recreational use. Livestock grazing and trailing would be a necessary component of the interpretive story and would be encouraged to continue with appropriate management to protect resource values. (See the Alternative 2 map.) As in alternative 1, a plan would be developed to guide ecologically sound livestock grazing on public lands.

The cultural preservation zone would be larger than the one described for alternative 1. In addition to a ½-mile-wide trail corridor encompassing the best trail remnants and the inscription rocks, it would include the entire encampment area in the Circle Creek basin and part of the rim area overlooking the Silent City. It would also include a prehistoric site (either Indian Grove, a rock shelter near Twin Sisters, or an archeological site near the proposed visitor center), the stage station site, an early homestead site on Trail Creek, the Nicholson ranch house, a corral site where ranching activities still occur, and any of the historic traces that were found to be significant to the history of the area. These significant archeological and historic resources would be preserved, and trailside or roadside exhibits would



ACTIVITIES/FEATURES

- PARKING AREA
- PICNIC AREA
- CLIMBING AREA
- CAMPING AREA
- VISITOR CENTER
- INFORMATION
- INTERPRETIVE DISPLAY
- VIEWPOINT
- SKI/SNOWSHOE TRAIL
- HIKING TRAIL
- LIVESTOCK TRAILING CORRIDOR
- CALIFORNIA TRAIL
- SALT LAKE ALT. TRAIL
- GRAZING

ZONES

- PRESERVATION/EDUCATION
- RESEARCH NATURAL AREA
- PRIVATE USE
- NATURAL RESOURCE/RECREATION
- PRIMITIVE CAMPING AREA
- DEVELOPMENT
- GRADED DIRT ROAD
- AREA OF SPECIAL CONCERN

ALTERNATIVE 2

HISTORIC CONTINUUM

N

0 2000' 1 MILE

CITY OF ROCKS NATIONAL RESERV

illustrate their historic appearance and interpret their cultural significance.

Areas of special concern would be identified to help protect key views, the same as in alternative 1.

The changes in vegetation and wildlife that have occurred as a result of climatic influences and human manipulation would be pointed out to visitors as part of the natural history of the area. The research natural area would be maintained at its present size.

The area open to rock climbing would extend from a point just north of Bath Rock to the northern reserve boundary and would include Parking Lot Rocks, the Bread Loaves, and most of the other most popular climbing rocks. Rock climbing would not be allowed in the following locations: (1) on the inscription rocks, (2) in the research natural area, (3) on the faces of Twin Sisters visible from the trail, and (4) within an appropriate radius around an area bounded by Bath Rock on the north and Turtle Rock on the south to ensure a quiet zone around the most desirable overlook into the Silent City.

Additional recreational use would be supported with scenic viewpoints, trails, and a picnic area. Handicap-accessible overlooks would be provided at Turtle or Bath rock and at a proposed new visitor center. The historic road trace bisecting the Circle Creek basin would be used for a marked hiking trail. Another trail would follow the Graham Creek drainage to Indian Grove and connect with the national forest trail systems near Graham Peak. Most trails would accommodate both hiking and horseback riding. A picnic area would be developed at Bread Loaves as in alternative 1.

Some camping would be accommodated inside the reserve at about 35 designated primitive campsites. Some of these campsites would be remote and require backpacking, but others would be accessible by walking in from roads. It would probably not be necessary to use all the locations shown on the Alternative 2 map to provide 35 campsites. In addition, the reserve managers would encourage the development of a campground near Castle Rocks on land managed by either the U.S. Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management. The campground would be sited north of the rock outcrop, where it would not be visible from the trail and where it would be outside the exceptional natural resource area.

A visitor center would be established inside the east boundary of the reserve, as in alternative 1. The center would offer general information, an overview of the area's history, and a variety of environmental education programs. Information kiosks would be provided near the Oakley and Moulton entrances to help orient visitors entering the reserve from those directions.

ALTERNATIVE 3: CALIFORNIA TRAIL AND EXCEPTIONAL NATURAL RESOURCES

Alternative 3 would tell the California Trail story through a variety of media and programs while protecting the reserve's exceptional cultural, natural, and scenic resources and allowing for reduced amounts of compatible recreational and private use. Most of the exceptional cultural, natural, and scenic resource areas in the reserve – including the landscape visible from the historic trails and the essential habitat for species of special concern – would be included in the preservation zone. Since most of these areas are now in private ownership, this proposal would require the acquisition of public interests in these lands. Outside the preservation zone, the public lands would be managed for recreational use, and the private lands would remain in livestock grazing. Livestock trailing would be allowed along the east-west road corridor between Almo and Oakley on a permit basis.

Greater emphasis would be placed on helping visitors experience the historic trails. The routes of both the California Trail and the Salt Lake Alternate would be protected, marked, and made accessible at many points so that people could walk along as much or as little of the trail corridors as they wished. The trails would not be fenced, since that would alter the wide-open character of the landscape as it appeared in 1843-69. The configuration of the preservation zone to avoid fencing and to protect the historic views from the trails would encompass both the Circle Creek and the Twin Sisters basins. The best preserved trail segments and the inscription rocks would be preserved and marked for visitors to see. All resources unrelated to the trail, including the Nicholson ranch buildings and the ranch buildings at the stage station site, would be allowed to deteriorate naturally.

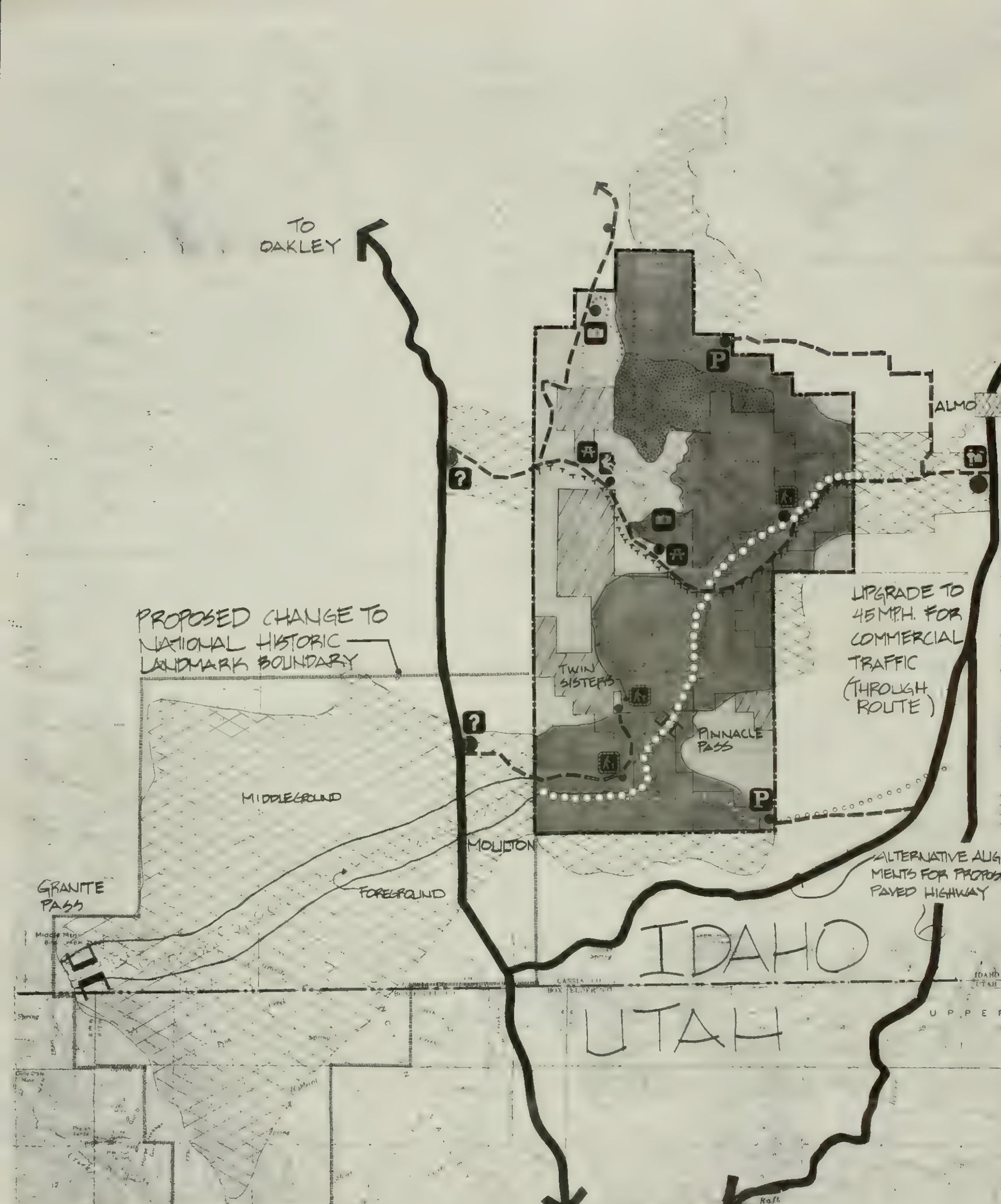
Vegetation visible from the trails would be managed as much as possible to create a more historic appearance. Reserve managers would work cooperatively with adjacent private landowners to restore the native grasslands and reverse the encroachment of pinyon-juniper that has accelerated as a result of overgrazing and the absence of natural fire in the ecosystem. All actions taken to promote native species, simulate the effects of natural fire, and control noxious weeds would be developed after full consideration of all the concerns of the multiple owners and managers within the reserve.

Because of the exceptional importance of landmarks and vistas to visitors' understanding and appreciation of the California Trail, the protection of historic views extending beyond the reserve boundary would be a high priority under this alternative. Areas of special concern would include

- the foreground of the views along the trail segment and entrance road from Almo
- the view from the trail looking east toward Smokey Mountain
- the views to the east and south from Pinnacle Pass
- the foreground and middle ground of the views from the trail segment leading from Pinnacle Pass to Granite Pass

As in the other alternatives, the foregrounds of the views along the Oakley and Moulton entrance roads would also be areas of concern because of their importance to visitors' first impressions of the reserve. The National Park Service would provide technical assistance to the existing owners of areas of special concern to encourage the protection of their scenic values. Because of the exceptional importance of Granite Pass as a major landmark along the California Trail, the National Park Service would seek, in consultation with the state historic preservation officer and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, an expansion of the current national historic landmark boundary to include Granite Pass. The county would be requested to zone a ½-mile-wide corridor along the trail route to Granite Pass as a historic landscape to protect the immediate foreground of the views from this segment of the trail. Zoning to protect the historic rural setting would be requested for the middle ground of these views.

Reserve managers would work cooperatively with representatives of Cassia County and the Federal Highway Administration to replace the north-south road that parallels the trail through the Twin Sisters basin with a new through-route that would skirt the south end of the reserve. The portion of the east-west road that



ACTIVITIES/FEATURES

- PARKING AREA
- PICNIC AREA
- CLIMBING AREA
- VISITOR CENTER
- INTERPRETIVE DISPLAY
- INFORMATION
- VIEWPOINT
- SNOWSHOE TRAIL
- SKI TRAIL
- HIKING TRAIL
- LIVESTOCK TRAILING CORRIDOR
- CALIFORNIA TRAIL
- SALT LAKE ALT. TRAIL
- GRAZING

ZONES

- PRESERVATION/EDUCATION
- RESEARCH NATURAL AREA
- PRIVATE USES
- NATURAL RESOURCE/RECREATION
- DEVELOPMENT
- GRADED DIRT ROAD
- PROPOSED PAVED HIGHWAY
- AREA OF SPECIAL CONCERN
- NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK BOUNDARY

ALTERNATIVE 3

CALIFORNIA TRAIL AND EXCEPTIONA
NATURAL RESOURCE AREA

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crosses the preservation zone would be designed to make it as inconspicuous as possible. Consideration would be given to eliminating commercial traffic except for local agricultural trucks on this route. The ranch road across the Circle Creek basin would be obliterated, and the area would be revegetated to help restore conditions that existed during the height of trail use. Other secondary dirt roads up Heath Canyon, Emigrant Canyon, and Trail Creek would be closed to all use except access to private land.

A variety of programs would be provided inside the reserve to tell stories about the discovery of the trail route, people's reasons for going west, the Indians who lived in the area and their encounters with the emigrants, living conditions along the trail, emigrants' impressions of the City of Rocks, and other aspects of the great westward movement of Americans in the mid 1800s. For example, visitors might be invited to participate in a historic "encampment" experience in the Circle Creek basin that might involve camp activities under the open sky; however, such a program would not involve spending the night in the reserve. Consideration would be given to providing public tours using appropriate transportation.

As in alternative 1, most of the crescent of rock providing important wildlife habitat would be included in an expanded research natural area. An area of special concern would be proposed to encourage coordinated management of this exceptional natural resource area inside and outside the reserve boundary. The research natural area would be open on a limited basis to interested visitors.

The reserve would be managed as a day use area only, with development to support recreational use minimized to avoid intrusions into the historic scene. All recreational facilities, including parking lots and picnic areas, would be sited where they would not be visible from the trail. Scenic overlooks would be established at Turtle or Bath rock and Indian Grove. Picnic areas would be provided at Bread Loaves and Turtle or Bath rock. No campsites would be available inside the reserve. The reserve managers would work with private landowners outside the reserve boundary and with other public agencies to find ways of meeting the demand for camping in the vicinity of the reserve. A multiple-use trail for hikers, horseback riders, and bicyclers would follow the old road alignment from Almo up the Graham Creek drainage to Indian Grove.

The area open for rock climbing would extend from just north of Bath Rock to the southern and western edges of the enlarged research natural area. Rock climbing would be restricted from (1) the inscription rocks, (2) the research natural area, (3) Twin Sisters, and (4) the vicinity of the most desirable overlook into the Silent City.

A visitor center would be established outside the reserve boundary at the City of Rocks junction on the Almo road, where it would be near the historic approach route used by the emigrants and on the access road used by the majority of visitors. The center would provide information about what to see and do in the reserve, inform visitors about any restrictions on activities, and provide an overview of the history of City of Rocks, with emphasis on the period of the California Trail. Information kiosks would be provided near the Oakley and Moulton entrances to help orient visitors entering the reserve from those directions.

ALTERNATIVE 4: THE CALIFORNIA TRAIL IN A VAST PRIMITIVE SETTING

Alternative 4 would seek to preserve an opportunity for future generations to imagine what it must have been like to follow natural landmarks across new territory. The pristine naturalness of the landscape, the solitude, and the mystical qualities of the City of Rocks would have been central to this experience. To perpetuate these qualities, the reserve would be managed as a vast primitive landscape with only minimal facilities for public access. Any signs of permanent settlement would be incompatible with this concept. Consequently, the long-range goal would be to acquire private lands and phase out private uses. The entire reserve would be managed as a preservation and public education zone, where public use would be restricted to low-impact activities related directly to the understanding and appreciation of the historic trail. All commercial livestock grazing and trailing, and some existing recreational uses of public lands, including rock climbing, would be incompatible with this concept and would be discontinued.

Self-reliance and discovery would be important qualities of the visitor experience under this alternative. Vehicle access would be pulled back to the edges of the reserve. People could drive to viewpoints at Circle Creek, Twin Sisters, Indian Grove, and the south side of the Silent City, where they could overlook the trail route and see the major landmarks and encampment area. The landmarks indicating the trail alignment through this area would be identified for visitors, perhaps through wayside exhibits at the overlooks, through self-guiding trail publications, or through information at the visitor center. Like the early emigrants, those visitors desiring to walk along the trail would use these landmarks as their only guides. The surviving trail remnants and inscription rocks would be stabilized using the best available techniques and protected as unobtrusively as possible from inadvertent damage by visitors walking through the area. However, they would not be marked with signs.

The listing for City of Rocks on the National Register of Historic Places would be reviewed in consultation with the state historic preservation officer to determine if the Nicholson ranch buildings and the ranch buildings at the stage station site were contributing elements to the nomination. If they were not contributing elements, they would be removed to help restore the historic setting of the California Trail. If they were contributing, they would be retained but not be stabilized or interpreted. All other archeological and historic resources unrelated to the trail would also be allowed to deteriorate naturally.

The protection of historic views extending beyond the reserve boundary would receive the highest priority under this alternative. Areas of special concern would include

- The foreground of the views along the trail segment and entrance road from Almo

- the impressive view from the point where the trail turns west out of Almo looking north toward the Castle Rocks, which were the first rocks seen by the emigrants as they approached the area from the east

the view from the trail looking east toward Smokey Mountain

the views to the south and east from Pinnacle Pass

the foreground and middle ground of the views from the trail segment leading from Pinnacle Pass to Granite Pass

The National Park Service would provide technical assistance to the owners of these areas of special concern to encourage the protection of their scenic values. As in alternative 3, the National Park Service would seek, in consultation with the state historic preservation officer and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, an expansion of the current national historic landmark boundary to include Granite Pass. The county would be requested to zone the foreground and middle ground of the views approaching the pass as a historic landscape.

As in the other alternatives, the foregrounds of the views along the Oakley and Moulton entrance roads would also be areas of concern because of their importance to visitors' first impressions of the reserve.

Vegetation in the reserve would be allowed to return to more historic conditions by minimizing disruptions to natural ecological processes and selectively restoring heavily disturbed riparian areas and other sensitive sites. The elimination of livestock grazing, restoration of wetlands, and simulation of the effects of natural fire would be expected to encourage native grasslands and halt the unnatural encroachment of pinyon-juniper and sagebrush. If suitable habitat could be maintained, consideration would be given to reintroducing native wildlife, such as bighorn sheep. The research natural area would be expanded to include all of the large crescent of rock in the northern portion of the reserve. This entire area is potential habitat for threatened and endangered species and species of special concern, which would benefit from special management as a protected research area.

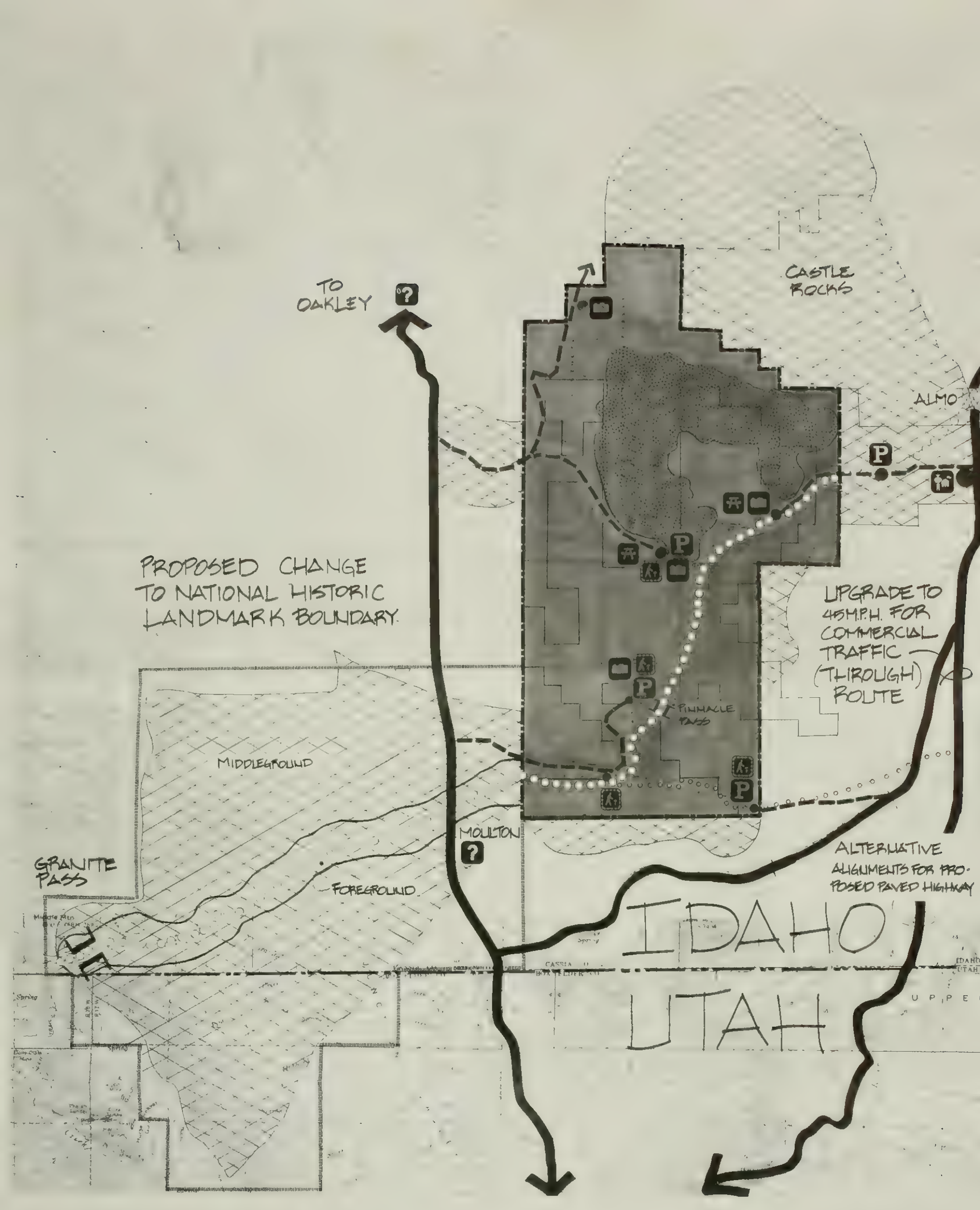
The elimination of modern intrusions would include the removal of most roads and recreational trails from the reserve. Road and trail scars would be obliterated, and the sites would be revegetated to help restore conditions that existed during the historic trail period. The reserve managers would work cooperatively with representatives of Cassia County and the Federal Highway Administration to develop a new east-west through-route south of the reserve. The access road to the Almo Park area of Sawtooth National Forest would be retained.

Visitor facilities inside the reserve would be limited to short access roads ending at small parking lots and scenic overlooks at the Nicholson ranch site, Elephant Rock, Twin Sisters, and Indian Grove. Picnic areas would be available at the Nicholson ranch and Elephant Rock. All these facilities would be sited where they would not be visible from the trail corridors. No vehicles, including bicycles or snowmachines, would be allowed beyond the access roads.

The reserve would be managed as a day use area only. Managers would work with private landowners outside the reserve boundary and with other public agencies to find ways of meeting

the demand for camping and other overnight accommodations in the vicinity of the reserve.

A visitor center would be established outside the reserve boundary on the Almo road, as in alternative 3. A smaller visitor contact station would be established at Oakley to serve visitors arriving from the west who might not travel around to the east side of the reserve. An information kiosk would be provided near the Moulton entrance.



ACTIVITIES/FEATURES
- PARKING AREA
- VISITOR CENTER
- INTERPRETIVE DISPLAY
- INFORMATION
- VIEWPOINT
- CALIFORNIA TRAIL
- SALT LAKE ALT. TRAIL

ZONES
- PRESERVATION/EDUCATION
- RESEARCH NATURAL AREA
- DEVELOPMENT
- GRADED DIRT ROAD
- PROPOSED PAVED HIGHWAY
- AREA OF SPECIAL CONCERN
- NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK BOUNDARY

ALTERNATIVE 4

CALIFORNIA TRAIL IN A VAST PRIMITIVE SETTING

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CITY OF ROCKS NATIONAL RESERV

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OUTSIDE THE RESERVE BOUNDARIES

CASSIA COUNTY HISTORY TOUR (CONCEPT 1)

If the decision was made to interpret the entire history of the City of Rocks, as called for in alternatives 1 and 2, this story could be greatly enhanced by resources throughout Cassia County. For example, the Oakley Historic District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is an excellent representative of Mormon town planning and architecture. Additional resources that could help tell the story include the county courthouse at Burley, other town sites and institutions, dryland farms and ranches, and traces of old trails and roads.

The main visitor center for telling this story would appropriately remain at City of Rocks, where all the various aspects of the story would come together in explaining how this nationally significant landscape was settled and how the land uses in this area have related over time to the land uses in the larger region. From the City of Rocks visitor center, a loop tour could link related resources outside the reserve boundary. Information stations would be established in Burley, Oakley, Albion, and Connor Corner to contact visitors as soon as they entered the loop and advise them of what they could see along the way.

The reserve managers could provide technical assistance to Cassia County and to communities in the vicinity of the reserve to help them preserve, protect, and interpret the significant cultural resources in their respective jurisdictions, thus enhancing the cultural setting for the reserve. Properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places would receive primary consideration. Properties in Cassia County that are already listed include the Oakley Historic District, Granite Pass, the Albion Methodist Church, the Albion Normal School campus, and the Cassia County courthouse in Burley.

CONCEPT 1

RECREATION & HISTORIC SITES

VISITOR CONTACT

DIRECTIONS TO VISITOR CENTER

WAYSIDE

DIRECTIONS TO VISITOR CENTER

BOISE

TO POCATELLO AND FT. HALL

TWIN FALLS

SNAKE RIVER

BURLEY

CASSIA COUNTY COURTHOUSE

DECLO

OREGON TRAIL

ALBION METHODIST CHURCH

ALBION NORMAL SCHOOL

ALBION

CALIFORNIA TRAIL

OAKLEY

OAKLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT

ALBION MTNS.

ELBA PASS

ELBA

CONNOR CORNER

CONANT STAGE STATION SITE

MALTA

HISTORIC MARKER

HURSETH CUT-OFF

DEADLINE RIDGE

MT. INDEPENDENCE

CACHE PEAK

GRAHAM PEAK

SAGE MOUNTAINS

RAFT RIVER

BLACK PINE MOUNTAINS

MIDDLE MOUNTAINS

CITY OF ROCKS NATIONAL RESERVE

ALMO

THE HARROW

SHOKEY MTN.

PINNACLES PASS

MOULTON

GRANITE PASS

CEDAR HILLS

STREVELL

NEVADA - ELKO CO.

IDAHO - CASSIA CO.

UTAH - BOX ELDER CO.

KELTON PASS

SALT LAKE ALT.

CEDAR CREEK

STAGE STATION SITE

TO SALT LAKE CITY

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CALIFORNIA TRAIL TOUR (CONCEPT 2)

A tighter focus on the California Trail story, as proposed in alternatives 3 and 4, could also be enhanced from a regional perspective. The junction where the California Trail split off from the Oregon Trail lies within the point of the triangle created by I-86 and I-84, less than 50 miles northeast of the reserve. The California Trail roughly parallels the road from Malta to Almo, while the Oregon Trail route continues east and passes just south of Burley. Granite Pass, a major crossing along the California Trail is less than 10 miles southwest of the reserve boundary. The Salt Lake Alternate and the Hudspeth Cutoff also pass through the region.

City of Rocks could be integrated into a regional tour route interpreting the California Trail. A wayside or visitor contact station for the trail story could be built at the point where the trail crosses I-84, just south of the Raft River bridge. From the interstate visitors would be directed to a loop drive that would go south into Malta, follow the trail alignment to Almo and City of Rocks, turn north along the Junction Valley Road into Oakley, then join back into I-84 at Burley. A small visitor contact station at Burley would inform east-west travelers of the opportunity to take this loop drive along the California Trail. The main visitor center for the trail story would be at City of Rocks.

VISITOR SERVICES

The quality of the visitor experience at City of Rocks will depend in part on conditions along the three access roads and in the gateway communities of Almo and Oakley and the town of Moulton. It is hoped that local zoning boards will remain sensitive to the importance of managing commercial development to protect the reserve's historic rural setting. The reserve managers will offer technical assistance to communities and private property owners to help them design commercial facilities that will be compatible with the character of their communities and provide quality tourist services.

OISE

LO

AIL
FROM
IL

TWIN FALLS

SNAK

CONCEPT 2

AIL

CALIFORNIA TRAIL & RELATED SITES

SIDE:
SPETH CUT-OFF
SSING

DEADLINE RIDGE

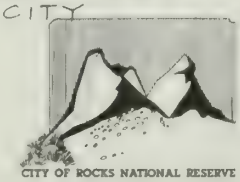
NEVADA - ELKO

PASS

WAYSIDE:
SALT LAKE
ALTERNATE
CROSSING

SALT LAKE ALT.

TO SALT LAKE
CITY



CITY OF ROCKS NATIONAL RESERVE

CONCEPT 2

CALIFORNIA TRAIL & RELATED SITES

OISE

TWIN FALLS

SNAKE RIVER

VISITOR CONTACT
DEPARTURE TO HISTORIC TRAILS LOOP TOUR

TO POCATELLO AND FT. HALL

WAYSIDE
CALIFORNIA TRAIL SEPARATES FROM OREGON TRAIL

WAYSIDE:
OREGON TRAIL
OREGON TRAIL CROSSING

BURLEY

CASSIA COUNTY COURTHOUSE

DECLO

WAYSIDE:
CALIFORNIA TRAIL CROSSING
DEPARTURE TO HISTORIC TRAILS LOOP TOUR

ALBION METHODIST CHURCH

ALBION NORMAL SCHOOL

ALBION

ALBION MTNS.

CALIFORNIA TRAIL

OAKLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT

OAKLEY

SE ELBA PASS

ELBA

O'CONNOR CORNER

CONANT STAGE STATION SITE

MALTA

HISTORI MARKER

HUDSPETH CUT-OFF

WAYSIDE:
HUDSPETH CUT-OFF CROSSING

DEADLINE RIDGE

MT INDEPENDENCE

CACHE PEAK

GRAHAM PEAK

JIM SAGE MOUNTAINS

RAFT RIVER

BLACK PINE MOUNTAINS

MIDDLE MOUNTAINS

CITY OF ROCKS NATIONAL RESERVE

EMERY PASS

ALMO

SHOSHONE MTN.

PINNACLE PASS

THE NARROWS

VISITOR CENTER

MOULTON

GRANITE PASS

STREVELL

NEVADA - ELKO CO.

IDAHO - CASSIA CO.

UTAH - BOXELDER CO.

KELTON PASS

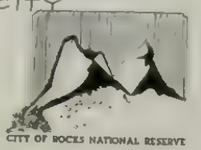
SALT LAKE ALT.

WAYSIDE:
SALT LAKE ALTERNATE CROSSING

CEDAR CREEK

STAGE STATION SITE

TO SALT LAKE CITY



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RESPONSE SHEET

Which of the following statements best represents your ideas of how City of Rocks should be managed?

☐ Some of the best examples of the exceptional cultural and natural resource areas should be strictly preserved while allowing most of the existing private and recreational uses to continue.

☐ All of the exceptional resource areas (see the resource values maps) should be strictly preserved while allowing reduced amounts of private and recreational use outside the preservation zone.

☐ The entire reserve should be preserved as a vast primitive setting (no modern uses).

☐ Other (please describe):

Which of the following statements best describes the kind of educational experience you think visitors should have at City of Rocks.

☐ People should learn about the entire history of the City of Rocks area, from prehistoric Indian camps to modern ranching.

☐ People should learn about the California Trail story through a variety of media and programs.

☐ People should be allowed to discover the California Trail on their own (limited access and few programs).

☐ Other (please describe):

What, in your opinion, are the major advantages and disadvantages of the following possible actions?

Allow regulated climbing on public lands.

Advantages

Disadvantages

Allow regulated grazing on public lands.

Advantages

Disadvantages

Allow regulated camping on public lands.

Advantages

Disadvantages

Establish a visitor center inside the reserve boundary.

Advantages

Disadvantages

Cooperate with other landowners to protect exceptional historic views and more of the crescent of rock that provides habitat for species of special concern.

Advantages

Disadvantages

Remove the north-south road from the viewshed of the trail; provide a new through-route south of the reserve.

Advantages

Disadvantages

Do you have any ideas about how the reserve might be managed or used that are not represented in at least one of the alternatives?

What topics should be addressed in analyzing the environmental impacts of the alternatives?

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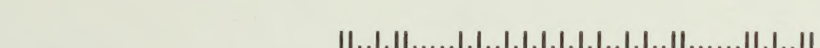

As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural and cultural resources. This includes fostering wise use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people. The department also promotes the goals of the Take Pride in America campaign by encouraging stewardship and citizen responsibility for the public lands and promoting citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

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